

this extraordinary family continues to welcome vulnerable children including two foster girls, ages 7 and 9, into their hearts and home. This is a special family, and they deserve our admiration.

I believe their willingness to see the tragedy of abuse and neglect in their challenging work as paramedics and their decision to make a personal difference by opening their own home and family to vulnerable children is a remarkable, inspiring story that has earned them the distinction of Angels in Adoption.

#### CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION ACT

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss my strong support for the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act that the Finance Committee approved yesterday. This is an important bipartisan and bicameral bill that deserves to pass and become law. I am proud to be a cosponsor and I congratulate Chairman BAUCUS and Ranking Member HATCH for their leadership on the important issue of adoption and prevention services for vulnerable children.

Over the years, I have been proud of the Finance Committee's bipartisan work to encourage adoption and improve child welfare services for our most vulnerable children, those who are at risk of abuse and neglect in their own homes. It is inspiring to know that, even now, members can come together to work on such critical issues. Bipartisan bills like this one may not attract headlines, but the policies and programs can change the lives of children and families.

This package continues previous investments in children and families, and it makes improvements on what lessons have been learned over the past 5 years. I am proud that the legislation continues to invest in the court improvement program that is making such a difference in West Virginia, and the country. Our judges are an essential partnership in the child welfare system because they decide when a child can return home safely or if adoption is the better permanency plan for a child. It is a difficult decision to make. Judges deserve specialized training in child development and trauma to help in their decision because this is not always provided at law school, but it is a critical factor in such cases. I am proud of our State training on trauma. The bill also continues the competitive grant program to combat substance abuse and to evaluate the grants so we make wise investments in the future. The bill invests in caseworker visits because such visits are the basics of good practice and essential for child safety and care.

As a former Governor, I support providing waiver authority for states to continue to try innovative programs. Under previous waivers, it became clear that kinship care was a good op-

tion for many children in the foster care system. I hope that our States will be creative in using this new opportunity to provide guidance for additional child welfare reform that is truly needed.

#### RECOGNIZING OHIO'S GLENN RESEARCH CENTER

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the men and women of NASA Glenn Research Center in my home State of Ohio for their achievements in the design, build, and test of the new space environmental test capability for the Space Power Facility at Plum Brook Station. These new capabilities will advance the human exploration of space, ensure the safety of our astronauts, drive scientific advances and technology development, and enrich the lives of all people and inspire our next generation of explorers throughout the United States and the world.

Seventy years ago, during World War II, the United States sought sites for ordnance facilities to help defeat totalitarianism. In quiet Erie County, OH, between major highways and acres of farmland, the Army Corps of Engineers created Plum Brook, a facility that would first be home to a munitions factory, and for the last 50 years, Plum Brook Station has continued to serve our Nation as a one-of-a-kind facility that has ensured the success of our Nation's space program.

Throughout its history, Plum Brook remained vital to our Nation's security and our Nation's exploration of space. The National Advisory Council for Aeronautics, NACA, the predecessor to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, built a facility to test the nuclear power sources for airplanes and spacecraft that would be designed at Lewis Field—later to be NASA Glenn Research Center—in Cleveland, OH.

When President John F. Kennedy announced that the United States would push the boundaries of science and innovation to explore the heavens, Plum Brook Station became a world-class test site for the new spacecraft. A thermal vacuum chamber, called the Space Power Facility, was built to simulate the harsh space environment. At 100 feet wide and 122 feet high, it remains the largest thermal vacuum chamber in the world.

In 2007, as NASA began to develop a new path for human space exploration, the men and women of NASA Glenn at Lewis Field and Plum Brook Station rose to the challenge to develop a test capability that would push the boundaries of spacecraft testing. The new spacecraft will continue the United States' legacy of carrying American pioneers beyond Earth's orbit, but will experience launch and space environments that never before have been experienced. The Space Environmental Test Facility will allow NASA to test its new spacecraft to these new ex-

tremes—ensuring the safety of our Nation's astronauts and the success of our space exploration mission.

To keep our crews safe, the test capabilities of Plum Brook Station were expanded beyond that of the largest thermal vacuum chamber in the world. These include: a state-of-the-art sine-vibration table that has the largest capacity for payload size and weight in the world, the largest electromagnetic reverberant chamber in the world, and the most powerful acoustic facility in the world capable of simulating launch environments for developmental spacecraft. This facility is now the crown jewel of NASA's test capabilities.

I have had the privilege to meet many of the scientists, engineers, and technicians who made this achievement possible. They are dedicated and compassionate, and guided by the scientific patriotism that displays a Nation's pursuit in understanding the world in which we all live.

These pioneers of NASA Glenn will continue to push the boundaries of spaceflight—fueling technology advancements and inspiring our children to follow in the footsteps of great Ohioans like Neil Armstrong and John Glenn. The scientists and engineers of NASA Glenn will ensure the success of the next generation of pioneers.

Our Nation is defined by the spirit of discovery, the pioneers who pushed westward on land, navigated the oceans, and are now sending humankind into what was once a mere vision seen only through Galileo's eye. We are a nation of pioneers. And we all have a responsibility to safeguard that defining American spirit and to inspire a new generation of American explorers.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING ERNEST HOUSE, SR.

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, today I honor the life and memory of a prominent tribal leader and dedicated public servant in my home State of Colorado. The Honorable Ernest House Sr. served more than 30 years in tribal leadership, including four terms as tribal chairman of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in southwest Colorado. He was first elected to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Council in 1979 and elected chairman in 1982. Throughout his long tenure as a tribal council member and chairman, he actively and effectively worked for the betterment of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

Mr. House Sr. was an unassuming, yet forceful leader on many issues important to the people of his tribe, including natural resources development, law enforcement and support for tribal business enterprises. His leadership on water issues helped to complete the critical Dolores and Animas-La Plata water projects in southwest Colorado that benefited not only his tribe, but also the entire region. He was a strong